**Indian software companies**

1880. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that European countries are becoming major threat to Indian software companies in the near future, for example the booming software market being developed by Bulgaria; and

(b) the steps being taken to counter the move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. As per National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), European countries are not seen as a major threat to Indian IT-BPO companies. Europe is viewed as a growing market opportunity by the industry with share of revenues earned from the region steadily increasing.

(b) Does not arise.

**ICT Academy in Kerala**

1881. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Competent Authority during May, 2008 had submitted a proposal to set up an ICT Academy in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, the present status of above proposal;

(d) if so, whether above proposal would be considered affirmatively; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal for setting up of ICT Academy in Kerala, submitted by the Government of Kerala has been approved by the Government of India. The objective of the ICT Academy is to train faculty who will impart training to students seeking employment in IT and ICT sector.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

**Post Bank of India**

†1882. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts is planning to open 'Post Bank of India';

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.